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1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

4 v.

19 Cr. 445-2 JMF

5 PEDRO RODRIGUEZ,

6 Defendant.

7 -----x  
8  
9 January 31, 2020  
10 2:38 p.m.  
11  
12 Before:  
13 HON. JESSE M. FURMAN,  
14 District Judge  
15  
16 APPEARANCES  
17  
18 GEOFFREY S. BERMAN,  
19 United States Attorney for the  
Southern District of New York  
20 RYAN B. FINKEL,  
Assistant United States Attorney  
21  
22 MIEDEL & MYSЛИWIEC  
BY: FLORIAN MIEDEL, Esq.  
23 Attorney for Rodriguez  
24  
25

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1 (In Open Court)

2 (Case Called)

3 THE COURT: Good afternoon to you.

4 I have been advised that Mr. Rodriguez wishes to  
5 change his plea and enter a guilty plea to Count 4 of the  
6 Indictment 19 Cr. 445. Is that correct?

7 MR. MIEDEL: That's correct.

8 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Rodriguez, before I accept  
9 your guilty plea, I need to ask you certain questions to ensure  
10 that you are pleading guilty because you are, in fact, guilty  
11 and not for any other reason, to ensure that you understand the  
12 rights that you would be giving up by pleading guilty, and to  
13 ensure that you understand the potential consequences of a  
14 guilty plea.15 It is critical that you understand each question  
16 before you answer it, so if there is anything you don't  
17 understand, you should let me know right away so that Mr.  
18 Miedel or I can explain it to you more fully. If at any point  
19 you would like to speak to Mr. Miedel for any reason, let me  
20 know and I will give you however much time you need to speak  
21 with him. Do you understand all of that?

22 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

23 THE COURT: Please rise so my Deputy can administer  
24 the oath to you.

25 (The defendant was duly sworn)

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1                   THE COURT: You may be seated.

2                   If you could move one of the microphones closer to  
3 you, that would be great. You are now under oath, Mr.  
4 Rodriguez, which means if you answer any of my questions  
5 falsely, you may be subject to prosecution for the separate  
6 crime of perjury. Do you understand that?

7                   THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

8                   THE COURT: What is your full name?

9                   THE DEFENDANT: Pedro Rodriguez.

10                  THE COURT: How old are you?

11                  THE DEFENDANT: I'm 31.

12                  THE COURT: How far did you go in school?

13                  THE DEFENDANT: I got my GED and some college credits.

14                  THE COURT: Some college?

15                  THE WITNESS: Yes.

16                  THE COURT: Have you ever been treated or hospitalized  
17 for any type of mental illness?

18                  THE DEFENDANT: No, sir.

19                  THE COURT: Are you now or have you recently been  
20 under the care of a doctor or a psychiatrist?

21                  THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

22                  THE COURT: Can you tell me briefly what for?

23                  THE DEFENDANT: Well, I have been going to St. Marks  
24 in the Village, Manhattan. I have been going there for 8  
25 months already. No problem, everything is good.

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1                   THE COURT: Are you receiving mental health treatment  
2 from them?

3                   THE DEFENDANT: Yes, as part of my bail stipulations.

4                   THE COURT: Can you tell me what, briefly what you  
5 have been treated for, what kinds of condition?

6                   THE DEFENDANT: There is nothing really. They just  
7 sent me there for an evaluation, and I just kept going and I  
8 felt I needed for someone to continue to treat me in case there  
9 was something wrong, but there wasn't anything specific.

10                  THE COURT: Is there anything about the reasons you've  
11 been going there or the treatment itself that would affect your  
12 ability to understand what is happening here today?

13                  THE DEFENDANT: No, sir.

14                  THE COURT: Have you ever been treated or hospitalized  
15 for any type of addiction, including drug or alcohol addiction?

16                  THE DEFENDANT: No.

17                  THE COURT: In the last 48 hours, have you taken any  
18 medicine, pills, drugs or had any alcohol?

19                  THE DEFENDANT: No.

20                  THE COURT: Is your mind clear today?

21                  THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

22                  THE COURT: Do you understand what is happening here  
23 today?

24                  THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

25                  THE COURT: You have discussed this matter with Mr.

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1 Rodriguez?

2 MR. MIEDEL: Yes.

3 THE COURT: Would you say he understands the rights he  
4 would be giving up by pleading guilty?

5 MR. MIEDEL: Yes.

6 THE COURT: In your judgment, is he capable of  
7 understanding the nature of these proceedings?

8 MR. MIEDEL: Yes, he is.

9 THE COURT: Do either counsel have any doubt as to the  
10 defendant's competence to plead guilty?

11 MR. FINKEL: Not from the government.

12 MR. MIEDEL: No, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: On the basis of Mr. Rodriguez's responses  
14 to my questions, my observations of his demeanor here in court,  
15 and the representations of counsel, I find that he is fully  
16 competent to enter an informed plea of guilty.17 Mr. Rodriguez, have you received a copy of the  
18 Indictment 19 Cr. 445 containing the charge to which you intend  
19 to plead guilty?

20 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

21 THE COURT: Have you had enough time to discuss with  
22 Mr. Miedel the charge, Count 4, and any possible defenses to  
23 that charge?

24 THE DEFENDANT: No. This is the --

25 THE COURT: Have you had enough time to talk it over

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1 with Mr. Miedel?

2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, we spoke about everything.

3 THE COURT: Have you talked about the charges and any  
4 potential defenses you could have to it before you go to trial?

5 You have had enough time to do that?

6 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, adequate time.

7 THE COURT: Has he explained to you the consequences  
8 of entering a guilty plea?

9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

10 THE COURT: Are you satisfied with his representation  
11 of you?

12 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

13 THE COURT: I have here a written Advice of Rights  
14 form that you appear to have signed, dated today, January 30th.

15 I'll mark this as Court Exhibit 1 and provide it to  
16 the government to retain after this proceeding. If you can see  
17 it from there, I'll show you Page 2 of that form. Is that your  
18 signature there?

19 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

20 THE COURT: Before you signed that form, did you read  
21 it?

22 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I read everything thoroughly.

23 THE COURT: Before you signed it, did you discuss it  
24 with Mr. Miedel?

25 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

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1                   THE COURT: Before you signed it, did he explain it to  
2 you and answer any questions you may have about the form?

3                   THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

4                   THE COURT: I will go over many of the things that are  
5 on the form to ensure you understand what you're doing and  
6 consequences of what you're doing. Let me know if there is  
7 something you don't understand.

8                   Under the Constitution and laws of the United States,  
9 you have the right to plead not guilty to the charges in the  
10 indictment. Do you understand that?

11                  THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

12                  THE COURT: If you did plead not guilty, you would be  
13 entitled to a speedy and public trial by a jury on those  
14 charges. Do you understand that?

15                  THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

16                  THE COURT: At that trial, you would be presumed to be  
17 innocent, and you would not have to prove that you were  
18 innocent. Instead, the government would be required to prove  
19 your guilt by competent evidence beyond a reasonable doubt  
20 before a jury could find you guilty.

21                  Do you understand that?

22                  THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

23                  THE COURT: In order to find you guilty, a jury of  
24 twelve people would have to agree unanimously that you were  
25 guilty. Do you understand that?

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1                   THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

2                   THE COURT: At that trial and at every stage of your  
3 case, you would be entitled to be represented by a lawyer, and  
4 if you cannot afford a lawyer, one would be appointed at public  
5 expense, free of cost to represent you.

6                   Do you understand that?

7                   THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

8                   THE COURT: During a trial, the witnesses for the  
9 government would have to come to court and testify in your  
10 presence, and your lawyer would have an opportunity to  
11 cross-examine those witnesses and object to any evidence  
12 offered against you. You would also have the opportunity to  
13 present evidence in your own defense and you would have the  
14 right to have subpoenas issued or other process used to compel  
15 witnesses to come to court and testify in your defense.

16                  Do you understand all that?

17                  THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

18                  THE COURT: At a trial, you would also have the right  
19 to testify, but you would have the right not to testify as  
20 well. If you chose not to testify, then no one, including the  
21 jury, could draw any inference or suggestion of guilt from the  
22 fact that you did not testify. Do you understand that?

23                  THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

24                  THE COURT: Before trial, you would also have an  
25 opportunity, if you had not waived it, to seek suppression or

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1 exclusion of any evidence that the government would use against  
2 you at a trial. Do you understand that?

3 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

4 THE COURT: If you were convicted at a trial, you  
5 would have the right to appeal that verdict and any pretrial  
6 rulings I made in your case. Do you understand that?

7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

8 THE COURT: If you plead guilty, you will also have to  
9 give up your right not to incriminate yourself because I may  
10 ask you questions about what you did in order to satisfy myself  
11 that you are guilty as charged and you'd have to admit and  
12 acknowledge your guilt. Do you understand that?

13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

14 THE COURT: If you plead guilty, and if I accept your  
15 guilty plea, you will give up your right to a trial and the  
16 other rights that we have just discussed, other than your right  
17 to a lawyer which you keep whether or not you plead guilty, but  
18 there will be no trial and I will enter a judgment of guilty  
19 and sentence you on the basis of your plea after I have  
20 received a presentence report prepared by the United States  
21 Probation Department and any submissions that I get from your  
22 lawyer and the lawyers for the government.

23 There will be no trial with respect to whether you did  
24 or did not commit the offense charged in Count 4 of the  
25 indictment or with respect to whether the government could use

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1 the evidence that it has against you.

2 Do you understand all of that?

3 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

4 THE COURT: Even now as you are entering this plea,  
5 you have the right to change your mind and plead not guilty and  
6 to go to trial on the charges in the indictment. Do you  
7 understand that?

8 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

9 THE COURT: Do you understand each and every one of  
10 the rights that I have just explained to you?

11 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

12 THE COURT: Are you willing to give up your right to a  
13 trial and the other rights that we have discussed?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

15 THE COURT: Do you understand that you are charged in  
16 Count 4 of the indictment with using and carrying a firearm  
17 during and in relation to, or possessing a firearm in  
18 furtherance of a crime of violence or a drug trafficking crime;  
19 namely, the attempted robbery charged in Count 2 of the  
20 indictment and the narcotics conspiracy charged in Count 3 of  
21 the indictment, and that that is in violation of Title 18,  
22 United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A)(i). Do you understand  
23 that that is the charge?

24 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

25 THE COURT: Mr. Finkel, would you please state the

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1 elements of that offense.

2 MR. FINKEL: Yes. The elements of Count 4 the  
3 government would need to prove beyond a reasonable doubt are:

4 First, that the defendant committed the elements of a  
5 crime of violence or drug trafficking crime prosecutable in  
6 federal court;

7 Second, the defendant knowingly used, carried or  
8 possessed a firearm;

9 Third, the use or carrying of a firearm was during and  
10 in relationship or possession of the firearm that was in  
11 furtherance of the defendant's crimes of violence or the drug  
12 trafficking crime.

13 With respect to the first element, that he committed  
14 the elements of a crime of violence would be the attempted  
15 Hobbs Act robbery. The elements are:

16 First, the defendant attempted to obtain property from  
17 another without that person's consent;

18 Second, the defendant did so by wrongful use of actual  
19 or threatened force, violence or the like;

20 Third, as a result of the defendant's actions,  
21 interstate commerce or an item moving in interstate commerce  
22 was actually or potentially delayed, obstructed or affected in  
23 any way or manner.

24 As to the drug trafficking crime as charged in Count  
25 3, the elements are:

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1                 First, two or more persons agree to violate the  
2 federal drug laws;

3                 Second, the defendant knew the essential object of the  
4 conspiracy;

5                 Third, the defendant knowingly and voluntarily  
6 involved himself in the conspiracy; and

7                 Fourth, there was interdependence among the members of  
8 the conspiracy.

9                 In addition, your Honor, the government will need to  
10 prove venue by a preponderance of the evidence.

11                 THE COURT: Thank you.

12                 Mr. Rodriguez, do you understand, with the exception  
13 of the venue requirement that Mr. Finkel mentioned at the end;  
14 that is, that something in connection with that crime occurred  
15 here in the Southern District of New York, with that exception,  
16 as to which the government's burden at a trial would be by a  
17 preponderance of the evidence, the government to have to prove  
18 the other elements that Mr. Finkel mentioned beyond a  
19 reasonable doubt before a jury could find you guilty.

20                 Do you understand that?

21                 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

22                 THE COURT: Let me tell you now about the maximum  
23 possible penalties for this crime. By "maximum," I mean most  
24 that could be imposed upon you. It doesn't mean that that is  
25 the sentence that you will receive, but you do have to

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1 understand that by pleading guilty, you're exposing yourself to  
2 a combination of punishments up to the statutory maximum.

3 Do you understand that?

4 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

5 THE COURT: First let me tell you about the possible  
6 restrictions on your liberty. The maximum term of imprisonment  
7 for this crime is life in prison, which could be followed by up  
8 to a five-year term of supervised release.

9 "Supervised release" means that you would be subject  
10 to supervision by the Probation Department. There would be  
11 rules of supervised release that you would be required to  
12 follow, and if you violated any of those rules, you could be  
13 returned to prison to serve additional time without a jury  
14 trial and without credit for either the time on your underlying  
15 sentence or the time spent on post-release supervision.

16 Do you understand all that?

17 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

18 THE COURT: You should understand there is no parole  
19 in the federal system, which means that if you are sentenced to  
20 prison, you would not be released early on parole. There is a  
21 limited opportunity to earn credit for good behavior, but if  
22 you were sentenced to prison, you would have to serve at least  
23 85 percent of the time to which you're sentenced.

24 Do you understand that?

25 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

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1                   THE COURT: In addition to those restrictions on your  
2 liberty, the maximum possible punishment also includes certain  
3 financial penalties.

4                   First, the maximum allowable fine is the greatest of  
5 \$250,000, twice the gross pecuniary or financial gain derived  
6 from the offense or twice the gross pecuniary loss to someone  
7 other than you as a result of the offense;

8                   Second, I can order restitution to any person or  
9 entity injured as a result of your criminal conduct;

10                  Third, I can order you to forfeit all property derived  
11 from the offense or used to facilitate the offense; and

12                  Fourth, I must order a mandatory special assessment of  
13 \$100.00.

14                  Do you understand those are the maximum possible  
15 penalties?

16                  THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

17                  THE COURT: In addition, you should understand that  
18 Count 4 carries a mandatory minimum penalty; that is, absent a  
19 motion by the government, I would be required to impose at  
20 least five years of imprisonment which must run consecutive to  
21 any other term of imprisonment imposed.

22                  Do you understand that?

23                  THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

24                  THE COURT: Are you a citizen of the United States,  
25 Mr. Rodriguez?

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1                   THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

2                   THE COURT: Do you understand if you were not a  
3 citizen of the United States, that by pleading guilty, you  
4 could expose yourself to adverse effects on your immigration  
5 status?

6                   For instance, you could be detained by the Immigration  
7 authorities following the completion of your criminal sentence,  
8 you could be removed from the United States, you can be denied  
9 admission into the United States in the future, and you can be  
10 denied citizenship in the United States. Do you understand  
11 that if you are not a citizen, those are the consequences that  
12 follow?

13                  THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

14                  THE COURT: Do you understand as a result of your  
15 guilty plea, you may also lose certain available civil rights  
16 in this country that you have or could otherwise obtain, such  
17 as the right to vote, the right to hold public office, the  
18 right to serve on a jury, and the right to possess any kind of  
19 firearm. Do you understand that?

20                  THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

21                  THE COURT: Are you serving any other sentence or  
22 being prosecuted in any other court at this time?

23                  THE DEFENDANT: No, sir.

24                  THE COURT: Do you understand if your lawyer or anyone  
25 else has attempted to predict what your sentence will be in

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1       this case, their predictions could be wrong. Do you understand  
2       that?

3                 It is for you to understand that no one, not Mr.  
4       Miedel, not the government's lawyers, no one can give you any  
5       promise or assurance as to what your sentence will be in this  
6       case. That is because your sentence will be determined by me  
7       and by me alone, and I'm not going to do that today. Instead,  
8       I will wait until I receive the presentence report from the  
9       United States Probation Department that I mentioned earlier.  
10      I'll do my own calculation of how the United States Sentencing  
11     Guidelines apply to your case. I'll consider any departures  
12     from the guidelines range. I will consider any submissions I  
13     get from the lawyers, and I will ultimately consider the  
14     factors that are set forth in a statute Title 18, United States  
15     Code, Section 3553. Do you understand all of that?

16                 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

17                 THE COURT: Have you discussed that process with Mr.  
18       Miedel?

19                 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

20                 THE COURT: Even if your sentence is different from  
21       what your lawyer or anyone else has told you that it might be,  
22       even if it's different from what you hope or expect it to be,  
23       even if it's different from what may be in the plea agreement  
24       we'll discuss in one moment, you will still be bound by your  
25       guilty plea and you will not be allowed to withdraw your plea.

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1                   Do you understand that?

2                   THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

3                   THE COURT: I understand that there is a written plea  
4 agreement that you and your lawyer have entered into with the  
5 lawyers from the government. Is that correct?

6                   THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

7                   THE COURT: I have here the original letter plea  
8 agreement, dated January 17th, 2020 from Mr. Finkel to Mr.  
9 Miedel. I'll mark this as Court Exhibit 2 and provide it to  
10 the government to retain in its possession after this  
11 proceeding. I am showing you the last page of this agreement.  
12 You appear to have signed this as well, dated today.

13                  If you can see it from there, is that your signature  
14 there?

15                  THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

16                  THE COURT: Before you signed the plea agreement, did  
17 you read it?

18                  THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

19                  THE COURT: Before you signed it, did you discuss it  
20 with Mr. Miedel?

21                  THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

22                  THE COURT: Before you signed it, did he explain it to  
23 you and answer any questions you may have had about the plea  
24 agreement?

25                  THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

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1                   THE COURT: Before you signed it, did you fully  
2 understand it?

3                   THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

4                   THE COURT: Now, one of the features of this agreement  
5 is that you and the government have agreed upon how the United  
6 States Sentencing Guidelines apply to your case. Do you  
7 understand that?

8                   THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

9                   THE COURT: You should understand that that agreement  
10 is binding on you and it is binding on the government, but it  
11 is not binding on me. I have my own independent obligation to  
12 determine what the correct guidelines range or guidelines  
13 sentence is.

14                  I am not suggesting that I will come up with a  
15 different calculation than the one to which you have agreed,  
16 but you do have to understand that by pleading guilty, or if I  
17 did, that you would still be bound by your guilty plea and you  
18 would not be allowed to withdraw your plea.

19                  Do you understand that?

20                  THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

21                  THE COURT: Another feature of this agreement is that  
22 you have agreed to waive or give up any right to appeal or  
23 otherwise challenge your sentence if your sentence is at or  
24 below the stipulated guidelines sentence of 60 months  
25 imprisonment. That is the mandatory minimum, so barring a

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1 motion by the government, that is the sentence at least you  
2 would receive. Do you understand that if you receive that  
3 sentence, that you would have no right to appeal or otherwise  
4 challenge your sentence?

5 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

6 THE COURT: Does this written plea agreement  
7 constitute the complete and total understanding of the entire  
8 agreement between you and the government?

9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

10 THE COURT: Has anything been left out of this written  
11 plea agreement?

12 THE DEFENDANT: No, sir.

13 THE COURT: Other than what is written in this  
14 agreement, has anyone offered you anything or made any promise  
15 to you either to sign this plea agreement or to plead guilty?

16 THE DEFENDANT: No, sir.

17 THE COURT: Has anyone threatened you or forced you to  
18 plead guilty or to sign this plea agreement?

19 THE DEFENDANT: No, sir.

20 THE COURT: Has anyone made a promise to you as to  
21 what your sentence will be in this case?

22 THE DEFENDANT: No, sir.

23 THE COURT: Mr. Rodriguez, I would like you now to  
24 tell me in your own words what you did that makes you believe  
25 that you are guilty of the crime charged in Count 4.

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1                   THE DEFENDANT: On February 12, 2019, in Northern  
2 Manhattan, I alone and others participated -- I participated in  
3 a plan to rob drug dealers. There was a gun that was going to  
4 be used in the planned robbery, and I was in the car driving to  
5 the robbery which contained the gun. I knew the gun would be  
6 used in the robbery and I knew my conduct was illegal and  
7 wrong.

8                   THE COURT: Okay. When you were driving in the car to  
9 the actual planned robbery, in other words, you took a step in  
10 connection with the plan to rob these drug dealers?

11                  THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

12                  THE COURT: Is there any dispute, Mr. Miedel, that the  
13 interstate commerce element is met by the fact that the  
14 intended targets were drug dealers?

15                  MR. MIEDEL: Yes, your Honor, and I believe the gun  
16 traveled in interstate commerce as well.

17                  THE COURT: Let me rephrase that. I take it there is  
18 no dispute that those elements are met. Is that correct?

19                  MR. MIEDEL: There is no dispute.

20                  THE COURT: Are you aware of any valid defense that  
21 would prevail at trial or any reason that the defendant should  
22 not be permitted to plead guilty?

23                  MR. MIEDEL: No, your Honor.

24                  THE COURT: Mr. Finkel, are there any additional  
25 questions that you'd like me to ask of Mr. Rodriguez?

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1 MR. FINKEL: No. Thank your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Would you please proffer briefly what the  
3 government's evidence would be and what it would show if the  
4 defendant were to go to trial.

5 MR. FINKEL: Yes, your Honor.

6 If this matter were to proceed to trial, the  
7 government's evidence would include, among other things,  
8 recordings between a co-conspirator of the defendants and  
9 confidential source working for the government, in which the  
10 robbery of drug dealers was set up, surveillance of the  
11 defendant and co-conspirators in a car, and that car arriving  
12 at the predetermined robbery location, the seizure of the  
13 firearm wedged into the passenger's seat which was right next  
14 to the defendant, and post-arrest statement by the defendant in  
15 which he stated, among other things, in substance and in part  
16 that he understood he was going to use a gun along with others  
17 to rob weed and money.

18 THE COURT: Do counsel agree there is a sufficient  
19 factual basis for a guilty plea to Count 4?

20 MR. FINKEL: Yes, your Honor.

21 MR. MIEDEL: Yes.

22 THE COURT: Do counsel know of any reason I should not  
23 accept the defendant's plea of guilty?

24 MR. FINKEL: No, your Honor.

25 MR. MIEDEL: No, your Honor.

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1                   THE COURT: Mr. Rodriguez, because you acknowledge you  
2 are, in fact, guilty as charged in Count 4 of the indictment,  
3 because I am satisfied that you know of your rights, including  
4 your right to go to trial, that you understand the consequences  
5 of the guilty plea, including the sentence that could be  
6 imposed upon you, and because I find that you are knowingly and  
7 voluntarily pleading guilty, I accept your guilty plea and  
8 enter a judgment of guilty on Count 4 of the indictment.

9                   The Probation Department will want to interview you in  
10 connection with the presentence report that they will prepare.  
11 It is important that anything you say to the Probation  
12 Department is truthful and accurate.

13                  Among other things, that report is very important to  
14 me in deciding what sentence to impose upon you. Before  
15 sentencing, you and Mr. Miedel will have an opportunity to  
16 review the report. I would urge you to review it with care.  
17 If you find any mistakes in the report or anything that you  
18 wish to bring to my attention in connection with your  
19 sentencing, you share that with Mr. Miedel so that he can share  
20 it with me, in turn. Do you understand that?

21                  THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

22                  THE COURT: Mr. Miedel, do you wish to be present in  
23 connection with any interview?

24                  MR. MIEDEL: Yes, I do.

25                  THE COURT: I order no interview take place unless

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counsel is present. Sentencing will be set for May 14th, 2020, at 3:30 in the afternoon. I direct the government to provide the Probation Department with its factual description of the offense within seven days. The defense counsel must arrange for the defendant to be interviewed by Probation within the next two weeks. In accordance with my individual rules and practices, the defense submissions in connection with sentencing are due two weeks prior to sentencing and the government's submission is due one week prior to sentencing.

Now, that raises the question of the defendant's remand or bail. Does the government have a position on the matter?

MR. FINKEL: Yes, your Honor. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3143 (a)(2), the government believes remand is mandatory in this matter.

THE COURT: Mr. Miedel, I think it does fall within the mandatory remand provision. Is there any basis not to remand the defendant?

MR. MIEDEL: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: I will order that the defendant be remanded pending sentencing. I think the Marshals are present, certainly court security officers are, and we'll order that they take custody of the defendant at this time.

Is there anything else?

MR. MIEDEL: In light of that, Mr. Rodriguez's mother

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1 posted \$5,000.00 bail at the initial bail proceeding, and I ask  
2 that the bond be exonerated at this point.

3 THE COURT: I think you need to submit that in  
4 writing, and it requires a judge's actual wet signature in  
5 order for it to be --

6 MR. MIEDEL: I will.

7 THE COURT: Look into that. I don't know if it goes  
8 to me or the Part One Judge, but if it goes to me, you know how  
9 to find me. Is there anything else?

10 MR. FINKEL: Not from the government.

11 MR. MIEDEL: No, your Honor. Thank you.

12 THE COURT: Thank you. I will stay on the Bench for  
13 the next matter. We are adjourned.

14 (Court adjourned)

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